

Remarks

The Office Action and the references cited therein have been carefully reviewed. The following remarks herein are considered to be responsive thereto. Claims 1, 4, 14 and 28-66 remain in this application. Claim 1 is presently amended by this amendment and claims 3, 5-8, 11 and 15-27 have been cancelled by this amendment.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11 and 14-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that is regarded as the invention.

In particular claims 1 and 14 were cited as not being clear in regard to how the device and method were carried out and for several claim limitations that lacked antecedent basis.

In response Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 in order to clarify the subject matter that is regarded as the claimed invention and to correct any deficiencies in regard to the non-proper antecedent basis for the claim limitations of claims 1 and 14.

Claims 1, 3-8, 14-16, 18-23 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,593,893 issued to Kobashi, et al. (Kobashi). Further, claims 11 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobashi in view of US Patent No. 6,551,557 issued to Rose, et al. (Rose).

In response to the rejections, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to clarify their distinguishing features. Furthermore, claims 3-8, 11, 15, 16 and 18-24 have been cancelled by this amendment.

In regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 14, Claim 1 has been amended to recite a conduit member for holding the liquid, and capable of dispensing the liquid from one end

of the conduit member; and an actuator for dispensing the liquid held in the conduit member from one end thereof by moving in the direction opposite to the dispensing direction of the liquid. No new subject matter has been entered by this amendment. Claim 14 has been amended to particularly claim a step for dispensing from the one end the washing water held in the inner portion of the liquid holding member, wherein washing water remains in the liquid holding member after the washing water is dispensed.

A distinguishing aspect of the present invention is the advantageous effect of the dispersal of a minute amount of liquid with high accuracy and with a constant amount and speed, in addition to the capability of the present invention to disperse a large amount of liquid in a short time period.

Nowhere in Kobashi is it taught that the invention comprises a conduit member for holding liquid, and being capable of dispensing the liquid from one end of the conduit member, and an actuator for dispensing the liquid held in the conduit member from one end thereof by moving in the direction opposite to the dispensing direction of the liquid.

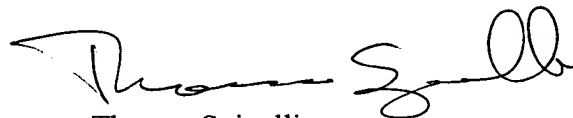
Claims 1 and 14 are patentably distinguished over the prior art. Further, claim 4 is allowable therewith at least because it depends from an allowable base claim.

In regard to the rejections of claims 11 and 24, neither reference of Kobashi or Rose teach the feature of dispensing the liquid held in the conduit member from one end thereof by moving the conduit member in the direction opposite to the dispensing direction of the liquid, as presently claimed in the present invention. Further, claims 11 and 24 have been cancelled by this amendment.

New claims 28-66 have been added by this amendment. New claims 58, 59, 60 and 61 are independent and are allowable for the same reasons as set forth above with regard to claims 1 and 14. New claims 28-66 are fully supported in the original disclosure at pages 23-28, 36-39, 45, 53, 56-57 and 65 of the specification, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of new claims 28-66. Claims 28-57 that depend from claim 1 are allowable therewith at least because they depend from an allowable base claim.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Spinelli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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